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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Letter dated 19 October 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I enclose a copy of the Declaration on former Yugoslavia made by the Special European Council of the European Community at its meeting in Birmingham on 16 October 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 143.

(Signed) D. H. A. HANNAY

ANNEX

Declaration on former Yugoslavia made by the Special European Council of the European Community at its meeting in Birmingham on 16 October 1992

1. The European Council agreed that immediate and decisive action was needed in the face of the impending major human tragedy in former Yugoslavia as winter approached. It underlined the importance of providing winter shelter and zones of safety for refugees, and of ensuring the delivery of relief supplies, as highlighted in the Commission's action plan. It decided that:

(a) The Community will speed up EC assistance, for which ECU 213 million is ready for immediate disbursement, including on 120,000 tons of foodstuffs, and on medicines, shelter and 40 trucks;

(b) Member States will immediately provide further staff and resources, practical and financial, to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);

(c) The Community and its member States will immediately establish a task force to support the efforts of UNHCR to deliver humanitarian aid to the former Yugoslav republics;

(d) In order to increase the effectiveness of such humanitarian assistance, the European Council called on UNHCR to set up:

(i) New week, a meeting of technical experts on emergency aid to ensure the practical provision of immediate assistance;

(ii) Next month, a stock-taking conference to assess the effectiveness of the operation and recommend further measures.

2. Each member of the European Council will appoint a personal representative to supervise this work.

3. The European Council called on other international donors to make a commensurate effort to support the UNHCR appeal and to speed up the delivery of assistance under existing pledges.

4. The European Council condemned the continuing widespread violence and cruelty and the savage breaches of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia which have caused this human suffering and are now the main constraint on the delivery of essential aid. It noted the unacceptable fact that commitments made at the London Conference had not been put into effect. The European Council expressed its full support for the unremitting efforts of Lord Owen and Mr. Vance to bring about an end to hostilities and a peaceful settlement and to secure the implementation of the agreements already reached.

5. The European Council strongly endorsed the recent United Nations Security Council resolutions on the Prevlaka peninsula, war crimes and a no-fly zone. a/ It underlined the importance of the rapid deployment of forces now under way under the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), to which a number of Member States were contributing, for humanitarian convoy protection and the escort of detainees from camps. It reaffirmed that sanctions measures and the arms embargo should be maintained.

6. The European Council discussed the dangerous situation in Kosovo and urged all parties concerned to exercise restraint and negotiate constructively in the current discussions. It endorsed the work of the International Conference and the long-term Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) mission of Ambassador Boegh.

7. In the light of the deteriorating economic situation in the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, the European Council stressed the need for appropriate measures to prevent this republic from bearing the unintended consequences of United Nations sanctions.

8. The European Council noted the recent undertaking by the Bosnian Serbs to remove their military aircraft into Servia and agreed that in case of violations of United Nations Security Council resolution 781 (1992) the Security Council should be asked to consider urgently the further measures necessary to enforce the ban on military flights.

Notes

a/ Security Council resolutions 779 (1992), 780 (1992) and 781 (1992).